

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method of performing sociometric analysis of a group of schoolchildren, comprising, in a single software application on a digital computer:
 - creating a sociometric questionnaire comprising a plurality of sociometric questions related to social status and/or social relationships, each said sociometric question including a plurality of potential nominations corresponding to the schoolchildren in said group, and each said sociometric question soliciting at least one nomination from said plurality;
 - accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;
 - analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a sociometric analysis of social status and/or social relationships; and
 - outputting said sociometric analysis.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a sociometric questionnaire comprises:
 - displaying a plurality of predetermined questions having a known relationship to be included in said sociometric questionnaire;
 - accepting a user's selection of said questions; and
 - generating a questionnaire containing said selected questions.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein one or more of said questions solicit nominations for a designation selected from the group consisting of Liked Most and Liked Least.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said group of schoolchildren is divided into subgroups, and further comprising:
 - accepting the schoolchildren's names by subgroup; and
 - assigning a unique identifier to each schoolchild other than the schoolchild's name.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said schoolchildren are sorted by first name upon accepting said names.

6. (cancelled)

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises:

displaying on a computer screen a replica of said sociometric questionnaire, including
said plurality of potential nominations associated with each said question; and
indicating selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of said
displayed nominations being designated by a user.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, further comprising
performing error checking on acquired sociometric data by re-executing the steps of
claim 7 for at least one said question; and
comparing the nominations for said question between the originally accepted data and
the data obtained from said re-execution.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, further comprising flagging any errors detected by said error checking.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising correcting any errors detected by said error checking.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises, for each schoolchild:

summing the total nominations that schoolchild received from other schoolchildren for
each question; and
standardizing said sum within said group[[:]].

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein nominations from at least two questions are summed and standardized, generating a First Standardized Factor (SF1) and a Second Standardized Factor (SF2), and further comprising:

computing a first score by subtracting said schoolchild's SF1 from that schoolchild's SF2;

computing a second score by summing said schoolchild's SF1 and that schoolchild's SF2; and

standardizing said first and second scores by the nominating group to generate a First Standardized Score (SS1) and a Second Standardized Score (SS2).

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising classifying said schoolchild into one of six sociometric social classifications according to the following rules:

First Sociometric Class: $SS1 > 1$, $SF1 < 0$, and $SF2 > 0$;

Second Sociometric Class: $SS1 < -1$, $SF1 > 0$, and $SF2 < 0$;

Third Sociometric Class: $SS2 < -1$, $SF1 < 0$, and $SF2 < 0$;

Fourth Sociometric Class: $SS2 > 1$, $SF1 > 0$, and $SF2 > 0$;

Fifth Sociometric Class: $-0.5 < SS1 < 0.5$ and $-0.5 < SS2 < 0.5$; and

Sixth Sociometric Class: all others.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said SF1 is generated from nominations indicating the schoolchild is Least Liked, and wherein said SF[[1]]2 is generated from nominations indicating the schoolchild is Most Liked.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising calculating probability scores for each of said six sociometric social classifications indicative of the reliability of said schoolchild's social classification within the respective group.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising calculating strength scores for each schoolchild indicative of the degree to which said schoolchild's social classification within the six respective sociometric classifications is fixed versus fluid.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises means for calculating probability scores associated with sociometric classifications.

18. (cancelled)
19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating self-nominations.
20. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating a scatterplot diagram having coordinate axes indicating sociometric values.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein points representing selected schoolchildren are highlighted on said scatterplot diagram.
22. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said group of schoolchildren is divided into subgroups, and wherein points representing the schoolchildren within selected subgroups are highlighted on said scatterplot diagram.
23. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein spatial regions of said scatterplot corresponding to sociometric social classifications are indicated.
24. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating a slider bar diagram for one or more of said sociometric questions.
25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the linear extent of said slider bar represents the range of responses to said sociometric question, and an indicator locates one or more schoolchildren along said slider bar in spatial proportion to said schoolchild's ranking in said group with respect to said sociometric question.
26. (currently amended) A system for performing sociometric analysis of a group of schoolchildren, comprising:
 - an input device;
 - a display; and
 - one or more processors programmed to:
 - create a sociometric questionnaire comprising a plurality of sociometric questions related to social status and/or social relationships, each said sociometric question

including a plurality of potential nominations corresponding to the schoolchildren in said group, and each said sociometric question soliciting at least one nomination from said plurality;

accept the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;

analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a sociometric analysis of social status and/or social relationships; and

output said sociometric analysis.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to accept the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to:

output on said display a replica of said sociometric questionnaire, including said plurality of potential nominations associated with each said question; and

indicate selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of said displayed nominations being designated by a user via said input device.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to classify said schoolchildren into one of a plurality of sociometric social classifications, and to calculate and report probability and strength scores associated with said classification.

29. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to detect and indicate reciprocal nominations.

30. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to analyze said responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises said processors programmed to detect and indicate self-nominations.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein said one or more processors programmed to output said sociometric analysis comprises said processors programmed to generate output selected from the group consisting of a scatterplot diagram having coordinate axes indicating sociometric values and a slider bar.

32. (previously presented) A computer readable carrier including a program that causes a digital computer to perform sociometric analysis of a group of schoolchildren, the computer program causing the computer to perform the steps of:

creating a sociometric questionnaire comprising a plurality of sociometric questions related to social status and/or social relationships, each said sociometric question including a plurality of potential nominations corresponding to the schoolchildren in said group, and each said sociometric question soliciting at least one nomination from said plurality;

accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire;

analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire to generate a sociometric analysis of social status and/or social relationships; and

outputting said sociometric analysis.

33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein accepting the responses to said sociometric questionnaire comprises:

displaying on said display a replica of said sociometric questionnaire, including said plurality of potential nominations associated with each said question; and

indicating selected nominations on said replica in response to one or more of said displayed nominations being designated by a user via said input device.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises classifying said schoolchildren into one of a plurality of sociometric social classifications, and calculating and reporting probability and strength scores associated with said classification.

35. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating reciprocal nominations.
36. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein analyzing said responses to said sociometric questionnaire further comprises detecting and indicating self-nominations.
37. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein outputting said sociometric analysis comprises generating output selected from the group consisting of a scatterplot diagram having coordinate axes indicating sociometric values and a slider bar.
38. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein one or more of said questions solicit nominations for a designation selected from the group consisting of Is Aggressive, Is Picked On, Is Teased, Is Weird, Is a Friend, and Is a Best Friend.